

Regional Data Framework

Rachel R. Rodriguez
GIS Coordinator - Yurok Tribe
RDF ACT Member

From the West Coast Governor's Alliance on Ocean Health

What is GIS

GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems/Sciences. GIS is a geographically oriented way to analyze, interpret, understand and visualize information.

The only requirement for Information is that there needs to have a geographic component (a point location, a line designation and/ or area boundary)

How can GIS help Marine Spatial Planning

GIS allows us to look at different features and perform varying analysis (locational interaction, spatial distribution, density etc.) i.e. Science with credible statistical outputs as well as a nice "MAP".

GIS Provides decision makers to have the opportunity to analyze the whole picture, only features they have interest in, or only the features they know is available to them.

How can you grow GIS for your organization?

GIS programs need GIS software
GIS programs need costly computers
GIS programs need trained technical staff

Develop GIS Data for your needs and focusing on your areas of interest, keep in mind industry standards.

* Be wary of funding

What is the WCGA

In September 2006, the Governors of Oregon, Washington and California signed the West Coast Governors Agreement – now the **West Coast Governors Alliance** – on Ocean Health (WCGA).

Under this agreement, action was to be taken coordinating activities to improve the health of their Coastal and Marine Resources.

WCGA created the Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT

To respond to concerns that insufficient access to data was acting as a critical roadblock to implementing ecosystem-based management on the West Coast,

The WCGA and its partners agreed that investments in capacity and technology were critical to addressing this concern and achieving this vision.

Due to the growing support for Marine Spatial Planning, the Regional Data Framework Action Coordinating Team was to be created.

WCGA created the Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT

“West Coast Regional Data Framework Workshop,” held December 13-14, 2011, in Oakland, California

The workshop brought together approximately 60 representatives of state and federal agencies, tribes, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The majority of the attendees were technical staff members of these organizations (e.g., GIS specialists, database managers, and data-developers) who work with ocean and coastal data specific to the West Coast.

Selection of Representatives

For the RDF nominations were gathered along with resumes and letters of interest.

There was no discussion pre-nomination regarding more than one Tribal Representative on the RDF.

As we move forward with the WCGA, the need for multiple Tribal representatives is becoming more apparent. I will be opening this discussion in the next month and bring it to the larger bodies of discussions.

Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT

February 2012, the WCGA created the Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT

Comprised of data producers, data users, tool developers, and GIS practitioners

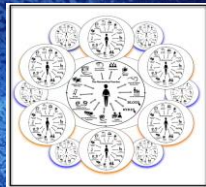


Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT Goals

- Improve access to regionally relevant coastal and marine geospatial data and information products
- Promote the interoperability of web services and applications that support coastal and marine management, policy development and planning efforts.
- Support a resourceful and informed community of practice among West Coast data providers, data users, and GIS practitioners.

Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT General Scope of Work

The establishment of a Human Network (The Network), comprised of the people and communication mechanisms necessary for linking data managers and users.



The development of a Data System, including the hardware, software, and data necessary for linking the existing technological infrastructure on the West Coast

Regional Data Framework (RDF) ACT FY 2013 & 2014

- Develop data-sharing tools to address priority management questions.
- Strengthen the capacity of our partners to use and share priority data.
- Build cost-effective mechanisms to improve communications among data users, data producers, and tool developers.

Get Involved

To learn about new developments, to ask questions, or to join the Network, please visit our website and sign up for the RDF email list.

www.westcoastroceans.org/RDF

Anticipated Fall 2013 Workshop

The RDF ACT will bring together the West Coast Data Network to update partners on ACT accomplishments, while engaging with the broader community of West Coast ocean and coastal managers.

Whether you are a data user, a data producer, or a tool developer you can contribute to our Network.

RDF Data Registry

Tim Welch
Senior Software Manager - Ecotrust
Contractor for the RDF ACT

RDF Data Registry

A website. A catalog. A place to discover and contribute valuable data and other resources to inform marine and coastal planning, policy development, and resource management on the Pacific Coast.



Example Datasets

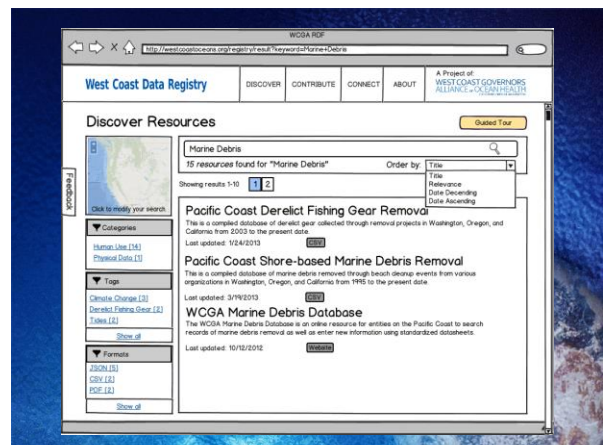
- Chinook abundance by stream reach
- Forage fish surveys
- Tsunami inundation risk
- Flood risk
- Seabottom mapping
- Aquatic boundaries

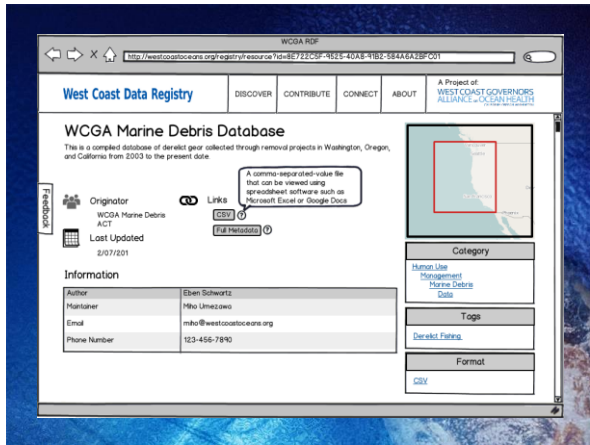
RDF Data Registry

- A clearinghouse, not a data repository. Publishes the existence of data resources and guides people to their source.
- The authoritative owner registers each resource and controls presentation and access.

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How To Contribute

1. Collect your information
2. Write metadata
3. Publish your metadata

1. Collect your information

- Database
- Shapefile
- Spreadsheet
- Report
- Research Paper
- Interviews



2. Write metadata

- A digital document with the following:
 - Name
 - Description
 - Authoritative owner
 - Contact information
 - Geographic boundary
 - When it was collected and how
 - Time period
 - How to use and not use
 - Links (website, file download, map, etc.)

3. Publish your metadata

- Make the metadata file publicly available online
- This metadata is now accessible for anyone to harvest and republish, including the WCGA Data Registry

Sensitive Information

- What are some of the options?
 - Don't share it at all, not even its existence
 - Publish its existence, and provide contact information to make a formal request
 - Publish its existence, and provide links to summarized data (e.g. by area or planning unit)
 - Publish its existence, and provide links to part or all of the data

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Timeline

- July 2013 – an early version of the data registry will be made available for review
- Sept. 2013 - formal public release of the data registry

Conclusions

The WCGA Data Registry is one tool for discovering data resources on the Pacific Coast as well as contributing them. We are striving to make contribution as simple as possible. The hard part is collecting and curating the information itself.

Conclusions

Issues with data sensitivity are being addressed by giving control over presentation and access to the authoritative owner, to give and take away at their discretion.